



Teacher Guide



South Carolina Department of Education
Instructional Television
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South Carolina ETV
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Nature Notes with Rudy Mancke

Teacher Guide

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Nature Notes With Rudy Manke

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Nature Notes with Rudy Mancke Lesson Guide

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Suggestions for Use: *Since these short segments are all approximately one minute in duration, they are excellent to include in your school news programs. Teachers may also use them as lesson “triggers” to stimulate discussion and to supplement curriculum objectives.*

Nature Notes With Rudy Mancke Programs

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NATURE NOTES WITH RUDY MANCKE

These one-minute educational capsules are effective lesson triggers and have been used by schools in their morning news. Featuring SCETV's *NATURESCENE* naturalist, Rudy Mancke, these one-minute programs look at locations around South Carolina and some parts of the U.S. by getting an intimate look at creatures and plant life. Rudy provides interesting information in his usual science-is-all-around-us style. *Nature Notes with Rudy Mancke* is suitable for grades 3-12.

1) Jocassee Gorges

Rudy takes a look at the Jocassee Gorges. He reminisces about the time when he got to see a place that he called the horse pasture. He talks about the great variety of things to see such as the Appalachian Cove Forest, snakes, and other things. He stresses the importance of protecting the gorges of SC.

2) Rattlesnake Rattler

In this segment, Rudy examines the rattles on rattlesnakes. He gives interesting facts about the rattle. For example, the rattles are actually layers of dead skin just like fingernails and toenails are dead skin. When the layers of dead skin are rattled, an interesting sound is made, and that is the origin of the name of the snake.

3) Fall Lines

Rudy discusses the term "fall lines". This term is often mentioned in South Carolina. The fall line is actually the area where the piedmont meets the coastal plain. Rudy explains that the hard rock of the piedmont meets with the softer soils of the coastal plain. This zone of rock outcropping affects the plant and animal communities, especially the coastal plain species, because it is difficult for these species to get to the piedmont because of the fall line.

4) Dragonfly

This segment discusses one of Rudy's favorite groups of animals, the dragonflies. South Carolina actually has 105 species of dragonflies. Rudy explains the different stages of the dragonfly beginning with the nymph.

5) Poisonous Plants

Rudy makes everyone aware of the poisonous plants in SC. He talks about our state flower, the yellow jessamine, and he explains that it is poisonous to eat. He reminds viewers that edible plants for animals are not necessarily edible for humans. He also discusses poison ivy and poison oak. He reminds viewers "Leaflets three, let it be". He also warns to leave a plant alone when in doubt.

6) Connections

Rudy discusses the connections in the natural world during this segment. He thinks that butterflies are one of the best examples of this in nature because butterflies are often directly connected to plants. Some butterflies, such as the monarch, will only lay eggs on one group of plants. This is also an interesting connection.

7) Mountains To The Sea

This segment explores the great variety found in South Carolina. SC has so many different physiographic provinces, such as the Blue Ridge area, the mountains, the piedmont, the sandhills, and the coastal plain. Because there are so many different habitats found in SC, there is a great variety of plants and animals.

8) Ace Basin

The Ace Basin is comprised of the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers, hence the term Ace Basin. Rudy talks about the important connection that South Carolina has with its land. He is proud of the fact that areas, such as the Ace Basin, are protected, and he encourages his viewers to support these protected areas.

9) Eastern Cotton Mouth

This segment is the most venomous snake found in SC. The Eastern Cotton Mouth snake loves the water. It is found along the

coastal plain to the fall line up to Columbia. However, this snake is not found above the fall line. Rudy warns that if one is unsure whether a snake is venomous or not, then leave it alone.

10) Osprey

The Osprey is a bird that is also known as the fish hawk. This segment discusses this bird and its feeding habits. The Osprey is found all around the world, and it is known for its fishing techniques. This bird flops into the water feet first, and it comes out of the water with the fish in its talons. The Osprey shakes the water off in order to make flying easier. Rudy describes this bird as “amazing”.

11) Carnivorous Plants

South Carolina has an excellent array of carnivorous plants. Rudy discusses these amazing plants that actually make a meal out of animals. The Venus flytrap is the most well known of the carnivorous plants. Some varieties have an interesting smell that attracts insects, and these insects get trapped in the fluid in the bottom and get digested. According to Rudy, “all of them are interesting.”

12) Bald Eagle

Rudy discusses our national bird and national symbol, the bald eagle. The bald eagle is easily recognizable because of its white head, white tail, and darker body. The bald eagle populations are currently on the rise in South Carolina.

13) River Otter

River otters are found throughout most of South Carolina. The river otter loves the water, and it is a playful animal with a sleek body, small ears, feet that move it through the water, and a really stiff tail. This animal is in the same family as the weasel, the mink, and the skunk.

14) Vultures

In this segment, Rudy discusses the two types of vultures found in South Carolina, the turkey vulture and the black vulture. The turkey vulture has a red head that reminded people of the head of a turkey. This vulture is larger than the black vulture. The black

vultures usually travel in large groups, and the turkey vultures travel individually. Several differences exist between these two species.

15) Flowers

This segment includes Rudy's discussion about flowers. Rudy discusses the male and female parts of the flower, and their role in reproduction. He reminds viewers that flowers are actually the reproductive parts found on plants.